



Daily Report

Latin America

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Blockade Against Haitian Regime Proposed at OAS
PY2310115691 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish
9 Oct 91 p A12

[Report by Orlando Lizama]

[Text] Washington, 8 Oct.—The Chilean Government tonight rejected the possibility of resorting to the military force to reestablish the democratic government in Haiti but supported the position to intensify the military and economic blockade against the new regime.

The Chilean position was conveyed by Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma at the OAS-sponsored meeting of Latin American foreign ministers.

The closed-door meeting was held shortly after the failure of an OAS mission that was sent to Port-au-Prince to discuss the return to power of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was ousted during a military coup.

Silva Cimma said: "I believe that diplomatic and economic isolation will force the military men involved in the coup to give up to power at any time."

Shortly before returning to Santiago, Silva Cimma said: "It is necessary for the OAS to strengthen the principle of peacefully solving all problems."

Argentina and Venezuela proposed the establishment of a multinational military force to solve the Haitian conflict.

Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella said: "We do not want to resort to the use of military force, but we also want the OAS to occupy the position it deserves, and not to turn it into a forum used exclusively for delivering speeches."

Di Tella said that "a total blockade" should be implemented if such approved. He said: "I hope we will not have to resort to military force but if it is necessary to amend the OAS Charter and resort to force, we will do it."

Di Tella said that the main objective of the multilateral force will seek to "defend democracy and human rights in Haiti."

The Argentine proposal began to lose ground when a draft resolution on the need to intensify the diplomatic and economic blockade rather than the use of force—a position advocated by Chile—was analyzed.

Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela Meet in Cozumel

Castro Invited to Summit

PA2210235091 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
2303 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Caracas, 22 Oct (NOTIMEX)—A government source said today that Cuban President Fidel Castro has been invited by his counterparts from Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela to attend the Group of Three's summit meeting in Mexico tomorrow.

The source told NOTIMEX that it is not known if Castro will attend the third meeting of Presidents Cesar Gaviria, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, and Carlos Andres Perez, of Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela, respectively.

The source said that the three presidents talked with Castro by telephone after 17 October, when Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari called the meeting, to be held in the state of Quintana Roo, in southeastern Mexico. The meeting will take place nine days after the conclusion of the Fourth Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba, and three weeks after the coup d'etat against Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The source added that the Venezuelan Government maintained great secrecy about the summit's agenda, in view of the risk that legislators opposed to the Cuban Government might have caused the congress to withhold permission for the presidential trip that is to take place in a few hours.

President Perez received Aristide at the Miraflores Presidential Palace on Tuesday, but the topics discussed were not disclosed.

Aristide has been in Caracas as Venezuela's "honored guest" since 1 October, after he was evacuated from Haiti by Venezuelan military airplane in the wake of the coup led by General Raoul Cedras.

The Mexican Foreign Ministry announced that the three presidents had agreed to hold the meeting "given recent events in the area and the need to design joint strategies and combine efforts in favor of regional development."

Acting Venezuelan Foreign Minister Rosario Orellana said last night that the presidents will discuss regional integration, but she did not mention Cuba or Haiti.

According to the acting foreign minister, Perez will travel to Quintana Roo early Wednesday morning, accompanied by Orellana and Beatrice Rangel, minister secretary of the Presidency.

Castro Arrival Reported

FL2310120991 Havana Tele Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Early last night, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz arrived at the airport on the island of Cozumel, Mexico. The president of our country's Councils of State and Ministers will participate in the activities of the meeting of the Group of Three, made up of Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela. Cuba is attending as a special guest. The commander in chief is accompanied by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, the vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers and a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba; and Carlos Aldana Escalante, who is also a Politburo member.

Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Colombian President Cesar Gaviria, and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez—who make up the Group of

Three—will begin an important meeting today in Cozumel in the framework of Latin American integration and cooperation, which are the principles that govern the group's actions.

On his arrival, on the island of Cozumel, located next to the Yucatan Peninsula, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro was welcomed by Mexican President Salinas de Gortari, with whom he then had a meeting. A news conference by the Latin American presidents is scheduled for this afternoon. The Group of Three was created in 1987 and focuses its efforts on the fields of energy, trade, finance, transportation, culture, and tourism.

Mercosur Meeting Opened in Asuncion, Paraguay
PY2310015091 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
22 Oct 91 p 12

[Text] The third meeting of the Common Market of the South [Mercosur] group opened here yesterday. This is the last meeting before implementation of the Treaty of Asuncion, which will be enforced as of 30 November. The meeting is being attended by delegations from the three other Mercosur member countries, which are headed by Felix Pena (Argentine integration under secretary), Miguel Berthet (director of the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry Foreign Trade Department), and Rubens Barboza (Brazilian integration minister).

In his opening speech, Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken said: "The expansion of trade and economic development pose a challenge for Mercosur countries. But this is also an opportunity to compete with developed countries."

He said: "We are living in an important period of integration. Mercosur did not come about because of the large economic blocs or as a means to achieve development. It is in answer to the continental unity song by our forefathers and it seeks to improve our peoples' well-being."

Speaking about the draft bill establishing the post of integration minister, which has been approved by the Senate, the foreign minister said that the integration minister will be in charge of coordinating ties between government institutions and international organizations, as well as between the government and the private sector.

What has been proposed is to appoint a "minister," but not to establish the ministry and infrastructure that this would entail. This post was proposed to overcome bureaucratic procedures. The integration minister will be assisted by five or six officials.

Asked about how nonpayment of the foreign debt will affect Paraguay's membership in Mercosur, Frutos Vaesken said it does not pose any problems for Paraguay because Paraguay has the smallest foreign debt in the region.

He said: "We have not yet made any payments because we are negotiating with the IMF and private banks. Paraguay will honor its commitments. It has the necessary funds."

The foreign minister also said that "because of the favorable conditions it enjoys, our country can gain great benefits from Mercosur if we prepare ourselves adequately."

One of its advantages is its geographical location. He said: "Paraguay is located in an area with the greatest economic potential in the region."

Another advantage in comparison with its neighbors is its economic and political stability, which create the proper atmosphere for foreign investments.

Uruguay's Gros Espiell on Mercosur

PY1910115191 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1925 GMT 18 Oct 91

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Cordoba, 18 Oct (TELAM)—Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell said that Uruguay gives "great importance to the economic integration of Mercosur [Common Market of the South]." Gros described the Mercosur agreement as "the most important in Uruguayan history and the lever that will transform the country."

During a news conference, the Uruguayan foreign minister said: "For us, Mercosur is just as important as the Declaration of Independence." He added: "We must understand the difference of expanding from a market of 3 million people to a market of 200 million. By doing this, we will be at the same level as the economic structures of the United States, Canada, Mexico, the EEC, and Pacific coast countries."

Gros explained that although Mercosur "is a reality" that represents 60 percent of the gross domestic product of South American countries, it will achieve its objective only after Chile and Bolivia join it.

Regarding Bolivia, he said that during the next meeting, to be held on 17 December in Punta del Este, Uruguay will propose a treaty with Bolivia. This treaty will place Bolivia in an intermediate position in view of the fact that Bolivia is an Andean Pact member.

Gros, who is in Cordoba to attend a meeting with representatives from Mercosur countries, noted that "we cannot fail because this is tantamount to not having an economic future."

Speaking about Uruguay's foreign debt he said: "We have resolved the issue. We are handling it without any problems and meeting all commitments as planned."

Answering a question about Uruguay's position regarding the Nonaligned Countries Movement, Gros said: "Uruguay was never a member of this movement, although it was sympathetic toward its original postulates, which sought an equidistant position between the world powers to safeguard world peace. But later it transformed itself into a movement that followed socialist countries and this was not in line with Uruguayan policies."

Gros concluded by stating that the restructuring of the international political scenario "is necessary" in view of the disappearance of communism and the Warsaw Pact."

Panama, Belize Request Membership in Parlacen

PA2210234091 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1624 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—The Commission for the Installation of the Central American Parliament (Parlacen) reported on 22 October that Panama and Belize will officially request membership in the Parlacen during the inauguration of the regional forum in Guatemala City on 28 October.

Hector Manuel Klee, chairman of the commission, told the press that regarding Panama, the Central American presidents received a protocol on Panama's membership during the past summit in San Salvador.

"This means that Panama will be considered an observer state in the Parlacen and will be able to request its definite inclusion through the charter treaty," he added.

The case of Belize, the official added, was not considered by the presidents of the three signatory countries in the protocol or the original treaty.

Klee said that Belize was discussed last week by the Guatemalan, Honduran, and Salvadoran legislators during their recent preparatory meeting in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

"As Parlacen deputies, we believe that any decision on Panama and Belize will be decided by consensus once the forum is installed," he added.

The Parlacen, created at the initiative of former Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo, initially will only be formed by the deputies of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras because Nicaragua and Costa Rica have yet to fulfill all the necessary constitutional and electoral steps.

Regarding the officials who will attend the installation of the Parlacen, Klee said that with the exception of Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro, the rest of the Central American presidents have confirmed their attendance.

The official delegations will be led by Alfredo Cristiani of El Salvador, Rafael Leonardo Callejas of Honduras, Rafael Calderon of Costa Rica, and Guillermo Endara of Panama.

Belizean Prime Minister George Price will arrive in Guatemala as a guest of Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano. The installation will also be attended by Fernando Suarez, chairman of the European Parliament Commission for Central American Affairs; Fernando Cardeza, EC ambassador in Costa Rica; and Italian Foreign Minister Ivo Buttin [name and title as received].

Malmierca Opens Diplomatic Seminar in Havana

FL2310031991 Havana Radio Rebelde Network
in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Report by Carlos Santana Ojeda on "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Representatives of diplomatic academies and schools for international studies began meeting at the Palace of Conventions in Havana on 22 October. They are attending a Latin American and Caribbean diplomatic and academic seminar on preparing for the third millennium. Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca gave the opening remarks. Malmierca said that the words of Marti and Bolivar, that unity and integration is the only solution for the Third World countries, are more true today than ever before.

[Begin Malmierca recording] In an attempt to attain these goals, the diplomatic officials have a very special role to play. They can and must contribute to search for and find a common language, the best ways to take united steps forward and toward progress, real independence, and development that we all want and which we can only attain if we unite.

Guadalajara was a great and very positive event. In Cuba we did more than just applaud its results. We tried to use the results of the meeting. We have tried to use the declaration approved by our heads of state as an instrument, as a tool for our work. [end recording]

The representatives of 12 Latin American and Caribbean countries will continue to meet through 26 October. They will discuss issues in the hopes of improving the training and qualifications of diplomats.

[Begin Malmierca recording] More and more, we must think, study, and work like Latin Americans and Caribbean. That goal will be closer if this seminar is successful. [end recording]

Costa Rica Signs Cooperation Pact With Chile

PA1710035091 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish
0100 GMT 17 Oct 91

[Text] Santiago de Chile—The Governments of Chile and Costa Rica signed an agreement on 16 October establishing cooperation.

Both sides viewed the agreement as a starting point for initiating a multilateral cooperation program that will include other Central American countries.

The agreement is based on the joint declaration between Chile and the Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama, signed during the summit of Central American presidents in July. On that occasion, the heads of state called for an economic, scientific, and technical cooperation agreement. The guidelines for the agreement were defined in August by a mission of the Agency for International Cooperation. [Agencia de Cooperacion Internacional].

Cuba

Court Condemns Four for Antistate Crimes

*FL2210191891 Havana Radio Progreso Network
in Spanish 1725 GMT 22 Oct 91*

[Text] For planning acts of sabotage against the security of the state, for theft of a motor vehicle, and for attempting to illegally flee the country, the Court of Crimes Against the State has issued sentences against Edmido Guerrero Garcia and Roman Guerrero Gonzales, both employed as drivers; Gonzalo Gonzalez Calixto, self-employed, all three from Banes municipality; and against Alfredo Luis Guerrero Gonzales from Guarda La Vaca municipality.

During the trial, it was revealed that Edmido had prepared several traps known as spikes [alcallatas], to be tossed into public roads in order to destroy tires, block both traffic and the economy in Banes. He was also planning to fill egg shells with black paint to deface white walls and murals.

The prosecutor proved that on the night of 22 July, while Alfredo Luis was on duty in Guarda La Vaca, the group of men took possession of the boat Nayade, improvised a sail, and navigated approximately eight miles offshore. They were forced to return when they were unable to start the boat's engine. The group came ashore at the area known as Estero Ciego in Rafael Freire municipality, near Guarda La Vaca.

Archbishop on Participation in Action Brigades

*PA2310035991 Paris AFP in Spanish 2220 GMT
22 Oct 91*

[Text] Havana, 22 Oct (AFP)—It was revealed today by church sources in Havana that Havana Archbishop Monsignor Jaime Ortega has opposed the participation of Catholic people in the "rapid action brigades," which were created to intervene in street riots.

The brigades were created with volunteers from the neighborhoods and enterprises in the capital shortly before the Pan American Games were held in Cuba during August.

The latest bulletin issued by the Havana archbishop, "The Church Here," is being distributed in several churches. Ortega said: "We understand a Christian's reasons for refusing to participate in anything that may jeopardize the love he has for other human beings, regardless of what they are or how they think. Hence their refusal to participate in those rapid action brigades."

Later on the Havana archbishop added: "This is a project that implies a contradiction, a division in the Cuban family; and it might create violence and physical aggression. Unfortunately, this has happened more than once."

"Consequently, our Christian conscience not only says no to participation in those actions; it also feels concern and suffers whenever those actions occur," Msgr Ortega concluded.

*** Air Force Capabilities in Hard Times Described**

*92CA0003A Havana GRANMA in Spanish
25 Sep 91 p 2*

[Article by Cesar Gomez Chacon]

[Text] The MiG-23 climbs until it becomes an almost invisible speck that repeatedly disappears amid the clouds and the brilliance of the sun. Suddenly, in a matter of seconds, the fighter plane executes a vertical dive precisely above the control tower of the base, and it seems as though only a miracle will prevent a crash. But there is no crash. With the same quickness, the plane levels off and begins another assault on the sky.

On the runway of the Fighter Plane Brigade of the Playa Giron Guard, only a few men looked up to view the pilot's impressive maneuver. The exercise for repelling an enemy air strike has been proceeding at full speed since very early in the morning, with a level of activity that the most active of anthills might envy.

Pairs of MiG-21's or MiG-23's are landing or taking off at frequent intervals, while the impressive silhouettes of the 29's are resting somewhere until nighttime, when they will join in the "game" in accordance with the dynamics of the day's program.

There are familiar faces among the men in zipper overalls. There is Fidelito, or rather Major Fidel Perez Pijera, the hero of Cangamba who proudly wears the Ernesto Guevara medal but is still the same happy fellow he was in his Camillitos days; and there are Major Carlos Noel Rodriguez Gonzalez, Captain Carlos Veldes Garcia, and many others whose hearts beat in their chests and who are made of flesh and blood the same as any of the enlisted men who are preparing their planes.

It is obviously also a special time for the personnel of the air base. Over there is a horse-drawn cart carrying servicemen who have the task of gathering up the parachutes used for braking the aircraft; closer at hand, on the runway, there are a number of tractors and other aviation-related automotive equipment powered by gas generators. Pilots, technicians, and engineers move from one side of the base to another on their respective bicycles.

First Lieutenant Joel Vera Lima—a technician who has had long experience with engines and fuselages—laughs when people talk to him about limitations. Angola taught him what it is to remove a tire from the wheel of a plane barehanded, using a stick; or to oil a fighter plane using a tin can; or to replace an engine in bad weather, which made it necessary to cover with nylon and wire the parts that were vulnerable to the sandy Angolan soil.

"Here," he says, "every plane has its own toolbox; over there we had one tool box with which we took care of five or six aircraft. As for the runways, there is no comparison. But if things get tough, I can assure you that we shall fulfill our mission nonetheless."

For his part, Lieutenant Colonel Jose Guevara Rodriguez says that pilot instruction has entered a new stage in which ground training is acquiring a decisive role from the practical standpoint—through the use of ground trainers—as well as from the technical standpoint.

"Moreover," this experienced pilot explains, "during a single flight we are performing three or four exercises that we used to perform in separate flights, with the corresponding expenditure of fuel. In this way we not only are saving three times as much fuel but our training has become even more complex, thereby necessitating a higher level of readiness for every flight."

"The use of gliders in some of the flight exercises," Guevara adds, "also helps to save fuel." He explains that despite the current economic difficulties, the conditions for combat and training with the required degree of safety are present at the base.

"But if it becomes necessary," the pilot says with conviction, "we—and the ground personnel—are prepared to fly in any situation, just as we have demonstrated many times in fulfilling our international missions. Our people need not worry in this connection: whatever the limitations, the defense of our country's skies is assured."

Another MiG takes off. Near the Air Brigade base, standing in his furrow, a mobilized farm worker puts down his hoe and watches the flight of the plane. It is a shame that his smile cannot be seen on the base.

Venezuelan Information Minister on Integration

FL2210231091 Havana Radio Reloj Network
in Spanish 2045 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Venezuelan Information Minister Andres Eloy Blanco has said in Havana that integration is more than an interest. It is a need, a goal we must achieve or history will exclude us. The information minister added that there are those who are trying to divide us, to keep us like a mosaic of various shades. Andres Eloy Blanco stated that it is necessary for us to unite and integrate our peoples so that they will get to know each other and obtain everyone's respect and appreciation.

Andres Eloy Blanco is presiding over a working meeting of the directorate of the National Information Systems Activity [ASIN] that began on 13 October in Havana. At the meeting, they are reviewing ASIN's situation, examining its problems, and giving serious thought to the challenges that lie ahead.

Commentary Views Possible British Investments

PA2210181591 Havana Radio Havana Cuba
in Spanish 1400 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] Businessmen from different nations have expressed their interest in establishing economic contacts with Cuba and others are willing to begin exploratory talks or sign mutually beneficial agreements.

The visit to Cuba by executives from 15 British firms occurred within this climate of broad Cuban ties with foreign investors. They analyzed, in Havana, the possibility of joint ventures, particularly in the area of tourism.

Negotiations with representatives of enterprises from capitalist countries are being conducted carefully by the Cuban Government, which has received more than 100 proposals to sign possible bilateral contracts.

The meticulous study of the possible lines of investment is protected by a law that permits Cuban enterprises to reach agreements with enterprises from capitalist countries as long as they are made without affecting socialist legality and principles.

There are obvious political differences between the potential western investors and Cuban Government representatives, but they do not prevent them from seeking improved working relations.

Regarding the case of the British visitors, commercial ties between London and Havana are normal. They have only been affected by Cuba's limited financial capacity. The British authorities do not abide by the spirit of the Mack Amendment, which was presented at the U.S. Congress to prevent subsidiaries of U.S. companies in third countries from trading with Cuba.

For us, there is no blockade against Cuba, nor are we participating in any such measure. Leicester Coltman, British ambassador to Havana, told the press. Thanks to this atmosphere, it was possible to examine joint British-Cuban investments, especially in the areas of tourism, and pharmaceutical and biotechnology production. The British entrepreneurs and their Cuban hosts worked toward this.

Two Citizens Attempt To Enter Spanish Embassy

PA2210170391 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1619 GMT
22 Oct 91

[Text] Havana, 22 Oct (EFE)—Two Cuban citizens on 22 October tried to enter the Spanish Embassy in Havana, but two policemen guarding the mission prevented them from doing so and managed to arrest one of them, sources at the Spanish Embassy told EFE.

The incident took place at 0830 (1330 GMT), when the two Cubans entered the building's terrace, next to the embassy, and forced open the gate, alarming residents, who called the police.

Correction to Castro Hotel Dedication Speech PA1810152391

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Castro Speaks at Santiago Hotel Dedication," published in the 18 October Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages 4-8:

Page 5, column one, first complete paragraph, third sentence, make read: ...not producers of wheat for bread. We...(supplying indistinct word "wheat")

Page 7, column two, fourth complete paragraph, eighth sentence, make read: ...types of economic and commercial development. This has...(rephrasing, supplying indistinct word "commercial")

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Caricom Discusses CET, Currency Deregulation

*FL2310024091 Bridgetown CANA in English
2234 GMT 22 Oct 91*

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Oct 22, CANA—Jamaica's Industry Minister Hugh Small says he won understanding from the Caribbean Community (Caricom) Council of Ministers Tuesday, in the face of regional concerns over Jamaica's scrapping of a trade payments arrangement.

"The ministers here accepted the explanation, accepted the basis of the decisions that were taken, because we made it clear that this is in order to correct imbalances in our economy and to help put our economy on a path of sustainable growth," Small told CANA during a break from the council meeting. He explained that Jamaica's new foreign exchange free market this month moved settlement of regional commercial transactions from central authorities to individual importers and exporters.

Small's contribution was on one of a number of delicate issues before the second highest Caricom forum, extended into an unscheduled second day to deal further with an agenda including discussion on incomplete implementation of the Common External Tariff (CET), and a December 31 free trade deadline.

Short of foreign exchange, Jamaica first deregulated the currency market last November, putting trade servicing in the hands of commercial banks and asking Caricom to settle trade debts in hard currency. The St. Kitts Caricom summit framed a short-lived compromise formula to allow Caricom importers of Jamaican products to make part payment in hard currency, the remainder being held in the currency of the importing country to offset the [word indistinct] their exports to Jamaica.

"The Jamaican Government is not (now) saying that payments with respect to exports to Jamaica must be in hard currency.... We say that is a commercial matter that must be settled between the exporter from the Caribbean and the importer from Jamaica," Small told CANA.

"Jamaica as a country does not have payments problems with other Caribbean countries, individual Jamaican enterprises, or individual enterprises in other parts on the Caribbean.

"We explained to (the ministers) how the changes that were implemented at the end of last month affect the question of payments and in particular the fact that the Bank of Jamaica is not responsible for accepting commercial payments," Small said.

He said there was in place the "beginnings" of a mechanism for Eastern Caribbean, Jamaican, or any other regional currency to be used in settlement of payments.

"The Jamaican Government does not any longer insist that payments be made in any particular currency because the Jamaican Government does not accept responsibility, nor does the Bank of Jamaica, for settling the private deals between importers in Jamaica and exporters from other parts of the single market."

He said that it would be clear that the payments problems have been "exhaustively discussed" and that there was common understanding of the situation when the council decisions [were] announced.

"What business people both in Jamaica and the Caribbean need to understand is that as we get into a more competitive world, there is no business as usual and that we have to make adjustments to ensure that we optimise the opportunities for expanding regional trade."

Dominican Republic

Death of Nerette Rumored in Haitian Community

*FL2210174791 Santo Domingo Radio-Television
Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1632 GMT
22 Oct 91*

[Text] Persistent rumors in Haitian circles maintain that Joseph Nerette, the provisional president installed by the military, has died in Port-au-Prince. The rumors have neither been confirmed nor denied by military authorities in the Haitian capital. Nerette was ill when he assumed the post two weeks ago.

Joseph Nerette was placed in power after the military deposed constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The Haitian Embassy in the Dominican Republic declined to comment on the rumors. Some sources within the Haitian community attribute the alleged death to the military sector itself. There is no evidence to support this theory.

Haiti

Government Newspaper Denies Nerette Death

FL2210182691 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE
in French 22 Oct 91 No 34.165 p 1

[From the "Stirs of the News" column: "President Nerette Progressively Recovers"]

[Text] As everyone knows, the provisional president of the Republic, lawyer Josette Nerette, has been suffering from a "viral fever attack" since last week.

The government newspaper, L'UNION, reported in its Saturday, 19 to Monday, 21 October issue that: "Contrary to persistent rumors, the provisional president is progressively recovering. He will fully resume the responsibilities inherent in his post over the next week."

Aristide Supporters Call For Strike 23 October

FL2210212891 Port-au-Prince Radio Plus
in Creole 2100 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Several labor union and mass organizations in Port-au-Prince are calling for a general strike on Wednesday, 23 October from 0600 to 1800 in order to demand President Aristide's return to power. These organizations include the National Federation of Haitian Students, FENEH; the National Confederation of Haitian Teachers, CNEH; and the Workers General Confederation, CGT, a labor union very close to the overthrown government. The Port-au-Prince Federation of Neighborhood Committee and the Papaye Peasant Movement, MPP, are also supporting the strike. The Public Transport Drivers Union for the Metropolitan Area, SCTPM also supports the strike. Other organizations, including Kambit Kom il Fo, an organization in Grand-Goave, totally support the strike. Other moderate labor unions have not as yet committed to this strike.

Youth Group Leader on Embargo, Intervention

FL2210222891 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1300 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Excerpt] The president and spokesman for the Port-au-Prince Association of Unemployed Youth [Asosyasyon Jen Chome Potoprens, AJCP], Cherestal Joanes has outlined his position on the country's current political conjuncture. Cherestal says he does not agree with any kind of intervention nor does he agree with the embargo the OAS and the United Nations want to impose on the country. He is seeking the cooperation of all sectors of the national life in an effort to find an appropriate solution to the crisis without foreign intervention. Cherestal calls on all members of his association and the Haitian people to reconcile with all sectors of society. [passage omitted]

Burglaries, Gunfire Continue in Port-au-Prince

FL2210233291 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE
in French No. 34.165 21 Oct 91 p 12

[From the "Stirs of the News" by Roger Milcent: "Chain of Burglaries;" all quotations marks as published]

[Text] Newspaper subscribers have informed us that nighttime burglaries continue in the capital.

"Mini-Micro," a store belonging to Jean-Claude Roy [Union of Haitian Constitutionals head well known for his severe and public criticisms against Jean-Bertrand Aristide] was ransacked on the night of 17-18 October in Delmas 69. Roy called this ransacking "political pressure" on Radio Metropole.

We have learned that the following stores: "Le Petit Bateau" in Rue de la Reunion, "Ro-k-Do" in Turgeau, and "Caridad Super Market" in Rue des Miracles were also looted.

In Bois-Moquette [Petionville suburb] heavy gunfire was heard on the night of 17-18 October until 0300. Unknown assailants surprised Benoit Napoleon and looted his hardware shop. The armed burglars stole a total of \$3,000 and Mrs. Napoleon's jewels.

El Salvador**Government-Rebel Peace Negotiations in Mexico****Vice President Comments**

PA2310001891 San Salvador Radio Cadena
Horizonte in Spanish 1830 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Report by Hilda Quijano]

[Text] Vice President Francisco Merino reacted favorably to the results of the negotiations held in Mexico and also spoke in favor of the signing of verifiable agreements to attain peace.

Interviewed on 22 October, Merino stressed the efforts made by his government to end the armed conflict and also called on the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] to show real evidence of goodwill. He said they should eliminate the use of violence to obtain results in the negotiations.

[Begin Merino recording] I believe the most important thing is that Salvadorans stick together because the attainment of peace is very important for everybody. Peace cannot be forced and it should not be referred to in terms of something written on a piece of paper. Each citizen must adopt an attitude leading to national reconstruction. Of course, it is important for the FMLN to show signs of peace. They should stop making the mistake of trying to force the agreements by violent means. Undoubtedly, we should all be working toward a state of law. We are all working within an established legal framework, which must be respected.

The reason why the government has shown a willingness to create a framework of reference, both in the judicial and electoral systems, as well as in the respect for human rights and the reorganization of institutions such as the Armed Forces, it is because we are showing that the Salvadoran Government and people want to provide the elements that are needed for reconciliation. [end recording]

According to the vice president, the negotiators should not insist on a date for a definitive cease-fire, but they should concentrate on the signing of national agreements that could lead to this objective in the short run.

Vice President Francisco Merino made the statements during the swearing-in ceremony of 20 deputies, who will represent our country at the Central American Parliament, which is scheduled to take place in Guatemala City on 28 October.

Jaime Romero Ventura, president of the Central Election Council, and Foreign Minister Manuel Pacas Castro were present at the event held at the Legislative Assembly.

Santamaria Summarizes Results

PA2310033591 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU
in Spanish 0142 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Statement issued by Oscar Santamaria, Presidency minister and head of the Salvadoran Government's Dialogue Commission, in Mexico City; date not given—recorded]

[Text] At the conclusion of the meeting that has kept us in Mexico for 10 days, I want to report on some of its most important aspects in the framework of the peace process that the Salvadoran people are following with much interest and that represents the end of the armed conflict in El Salvador.

We can report at the end of this meeting that significant progress has been made on the reduced agenda that was approved in New York. This agenda covered various issues. Work has been conducted in line with the agenda, which included the Armed Forces issue, proposals on reforms to the Constitution, and economic and social aspects. We have also worked for a cease-fire, which according to the New York Agreements, is an essential and most important issue of the peace process.

We could say that positive progress has been made because some of the positions held by the two sides on these issues have been analyzed and points of agreement have been found. This is on record and this record will serve as basis for the drafting of final agreements.

As I have said before, we have functioned on the two-tables system. One table dealt with political matters. The other table handled the cease-fire issue.

We also want to report that no final agreement was reached at this meeting. The Salvadoran people can recall that this process was interrupted before the New York Agreements. The process has been renewed with this Mexico meeting. The issues or points we have been discussing are complex and difficult and it takes time to reach final agreements. We believe, however, that considering the progress that has been made, when the process is renewed in a few days, we will have a draft of a final agreement that will allow us to reach the objectives of the Geneva Agreement and the New York Agreement, which addresses a definitive cease-fire and the incorporation of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front into the civilian and political life of the country, that is, their incorporation into Salvadoran society, after they are disarmed and demobilized.

We see this as part of a positive phase that the Salvadoran people view as a source of hope and as a symbol that we are moving in the right direction to secure the peace the Salvadoran people want.

We hope that when the intense and continuous meetings we have initiated in Mexico are renewed, we may search for final agreements that will end the armed conflict and bring definite peace to El Salvador.

We ask the Salvadoran people to have trust in the process because we see firm signs that peace will be attained.

This has been, more or less, a summary of the negotiations that are ending now in Mexico City after several days of meetings.

Handal: 'Important Progress' on Armed Forces Issue

PA2310044391 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU
in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Interview with Commander Jorge Shafik Handal of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, by unidentified reporter, place and date not given—live or recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Handal]...We have taken a recess, but the talks will continue 3 November. Very important progress has been made on the Armed Forces issue and we believe that this progress will continue. The Copaz [National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace] meeting will be held in Mexico in the next few days. That means that the whole process aimed at reaching a political negotiated solution is currently under way. We have agreed that the agreements cannot be disclosed until the talks are concluded, but the progress that has been made is positive and significant. We still have very hard work ahead of us, although we are in the final phase of the negotiations. This is what I can tell you regarding the negotiations.

[Reporter] Mr. De Soto, UN representative, has cautioned against optimism regarding reaching a cease-fire in the next round of talks [words indistinct].

[Handal] Well, this is how these things are, and I think that Mr. De Soto is right when he warns against holding high expectations. Generally, high expectations fall short and this is what he is trying to avoid. Nevertheless, that does not mean that the dialogue is impeded or that we believe that things are not going well.

[Reporter] Has there been some sort of stumbling block [words distinct]?

[Handal] I would not say that there has been a stumbling block. There have been very specific issues on which we have not reached an agreement, this is very normal. We cannot say that there is a stumbling block that is halting the peace process. Some issues are still unsettled and we are certain that the government delegation will want to discuss and consult with their leaders, with President Cristiani, and with the Armed Forces high command. [end recording]

Assembly Delays Ratification of Judicial Reforms

PA2310033691 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
0201 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The Legislative Assembly of El Salvador today suspended the ratification of judicial reforms, which were approved during a dialogue with the guerrilla groups.

The legislators were scheduled to conclude—with those constitutional modifications—a revision of the package of judicial changes that the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) approved in April.

Two months ago, the Legislative Assembly began to ratify the reforms to articles on human rights and the electoral system, which—along with those on judicial issues—are considered the key to a peace process in the country.

The points on the Armed Forces—also approved in the dialogue—will not be reviewed by the deputies for the time being, given that the government has insisted that they should be discussed after a cease-fire is signed.

The ratification process might resume next week and some deputies consider that the delay is "positive" because it would facilitate "a revision of controversial issues."

Guatemala

Supreme Court President Comments on Devine Case

PA2210184991 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO
in Spanish 21 Oct 91 p 3

[Text] Guatemala City, 21 Oct—Edmundo Vasquez Martinez, president of the Supreme Court of Justice, said that, despite the fact that military courts reportedly must issue a ruling in less time than the regular courts, it is strange that no ruling has been issued in the case of the kidnapping and murder of U.S. citizen Michael Devine.

This case is being handled by military courts, he stated, adding that ordinary justice has nothing to do with it.

However, he said, it surprises me that this process has not yet been resolved, because a military process should be more expeditious than an ordinary one. Nonetheless, no ruling has been issued.

Michael Devine was murdered on 8 June 1990, a few hours after being kidnapped by unidentified individuals in a vehicle. His body was found by National Police officers who conducted a search near Santa Elena, El Peten Department, at the request of Carole Ann Devine, the victim's wife.

Twelve soldiers, among them Colonel Guillermo Portillo Gomez, deputy commander of Santa Elena Military Base, and Captain Hugo Roberto Contreras Alvarado,

have been arrested in connection with this incident. The officers were accused of masterminding this crime.

Later, Col. Portillo Gomez and Capt. Contreras Alvarado were released, along with soldier Fabian Arevalo de la Cruz, after the Military Prosecutor's Office could not find enough evidence against them. They remain accused in the case as do the other soldiers, who have remained under arrest since June 1990.

Army Colonel Says Rebels Drug Trafficking

PA2210015691 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE
in Spanish 19 Oct 91 p 12

[Text] Colonel Victor Augusto Vasquez Echeverria, commander of Military Zone No. 23, which has its headquarters in Peten, has reported that the members of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] are now trafficking in drugs because there is no longer an ideological banner inspiring their struggle.

The colonel said that "from the very beginning, the Guatemalan Army has been defeating the fascist-Leninist plotters who no longer have any logistical support from any international organization, a situation that has forced them to engage in drug trafficking and other activities that go against human rights."

Col. Vasquez Echeverria cited the seizure of 500 kg of cocaine worth \$60 million. The drug was seized in a clandestine airfield in Peten Department.

The colonel noted: "The Army has always been capable of defeating the URNG on the battlefield and they are acting desperately."

Col. Vasquez Echeverria said that the Army is interested in the government-sponsored peace process producing an agreement.

*** Budget To Exceed 6.46 Billion Quetzals in 1992**

92CA0002A Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO
in Spanish 30 Aug 91 p 3

[Text] The draft of the General Budget of Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 1992 will exceed 6.463 billion quetzals. Minister of Finance Richard Aitkenhead Castillo announced last night as the technical experts of the ministry were still making the final adjustments to the various budgetary items.

The budget bill will be delivered at noon today to the Presidency of the Congress and to the Finance Committee of that legislative body for their discussion and approval—a parliamentary process which according to the Constitution must be completed no later than the last day of November.

According to the estimates of Finance Minister Aitkenhead Castillo, the 1992 budget is equal to 10 percent of the GDP, with 7.5 percent allocated to defray current expenses and 2.5 percent to investment. It is a draft

budget that is balanced and that will not create a fiscal deficit for 1992, the minister said.

Aitkenhead noted that 100 million quetzals will appear as a hypothetical deficit, but explained that this figure represents the total amount collected under the law authorizing the Special Tax and the issuance of Emergency Bonds; it will not be spent in 1991 and can therefore be used to cover several line items in the 1992 budget.

As of 1800 yesterday, at which time the technical experts were making the final adjustments, the 1992 budget amounted to 6.463 billion quetzals—an amount that could increase slightly because of adjustments that will probably be made if deemed appropriate but that at no time will exceed the ceiling of 6.5 billion quetzals, the minister declared.

Aitkenhead explained that expenditures will not increase in real terms, because the increase is equal to the 15 percent increase in inflation projected for 1991 plus the 3.5 percent growth projected for the economy, with the result that the 1992 budget represents an increase of 18.5 percent over this year's budget.

The 1991 budget was approved in the amount of 5.5156 billion quetzals, but by the addition of 20 million quetzals to the congressional budget the overall figure was increased to 5.535 billion quetzals plus an additional 700 million quetzals in revenue that will be generated by the sale of the Emergency Bonds and the payment of the Special Tax—an increase that has not yet been authorized by Congress.

The finance minister maintains that in 1992 it will definitely be possible to implement the investment budget, because the projects are backed by money deposited in checking accounts, by credit already obtained, and by savings obtained through the Tax Modernization Program. He stated that the reason the previous investment budget had not been implemented was that the projects were financed by credit not yet obtained—something that has always been uncertain.

Of the total of 6.463 billion quetzals, 5.343 billion is destined for operations and investment and 1.110 billion for payment of domestic and foreign debt [figures as published].

The line item for investment amounts to 1.369 billion quetzals, while the budget for operations and the payment of interest on the debt amounts to 3.974 billion—a figure that was increased because of the salary increase that the government will grant this month to government employees.

*** Drought Worsens: Bean, Corn Crops Lost**

92CA0002E Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish
4 Sep 91 p 6

[Text] Guatemala City, 4 September—The current drought—which has already destroyed the basic grain

and seed crops in the nation's natural graneries, namely the eastern part of the country, an extensive agricultural belt in the southwest, and the Reina zone of Ixcán—is a genuine national tragedy.

This opinion was expressed by farmers who were interviewed by EL GRAFICO concerning the damage already inflicted on their crops by the drought that has withered extensive plantings of corn and beans—crops that are the basic items in the diet of the Guatemalan people.

The farmers who were consulted about this problem declared that the prolonged absence of rain has already dried up many fields of basic grain and seed crops, and of corn and beans in particular. They say that this has occurred in extensive areas of the eastern part of the Republic, where the burning sun and lack of rainfall have already parched the earth and killed their plantings. The farmers emphasized that the same thing has occurred in the Ixcán region between El Quiché and Huehuetenango. They voiced the opinion that this will inevitably make it necessary to import corn and beans, possibly from countries outside the region in view of the fact that the drought is widespread throughout Central America. In fact, authorization has already been announced officially for the importation of tortillas, which are a very important dietary supplement for the majority of Guatemalans and especially the Indian population.

For his part, Minister of Agriculture Adolfo Boppel minimized the seriousness of the situation that is under scrutiny. He attributed the current drought to a cyclic phenomenon that is repeated every five years. He estimated that the lack of rainfall has affected approximately 30 percent of the basic grain and seed crops, representing in numerical terms a loss of approximately 1.5 million quintals, especially of corn.

Boppel acknowledged that the current drought is the most prolonged of recent years and is related to the phenomenon known as "El Niño." The most recent periods of drought were recorded in 1977, 1983, 1986, and now in 1991.

He expressed the belief that there good crops have been harvested in the departments of Huehuetenango, Quetzaltenango, San Marcos, and Chimaltenango, especially in those regions that grow legumes and green vegetables.

* Electricity Shortage Affects Economy

92CA0002B Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO
in Spanish 17 Sep 91 p 8

[Text] After two weeks of electricity rationing, the industrial sector is already faced with losses totaling almost 100 million quetzals, says Engineer Edgardo Ruiz, administrative manager of the Chamber of Industry of Guatemala [CIG].

Every power outage that occurs during the daytime costs the nation at least 2 million quetzals for every 60

minutes of outage, with the result that as of today the economic damage exceeds 96 million quetzals because of the four-hour per day blackout.

The CIG executive added that according to members of the Chamber, the drop in the level of production during the past two weeks of rationing already exceeds 40 percent.

The decline in production, he said, is occurring largely because many industrial processes operate on the basis of heat, involving machinery that requires high temperatures in order to begin operating.

"We can therefore calculate the losses sustained by the industrial sector during the past two weeks of rationing at a minimum of more than 96 million quetzals," he said.

Engineer Ruiz added, however, that the industrialists believe the biggest problem is the absence of any indications that the crisis will be solved in the shortest possible time.

Moreover, he said, "we have been informed that the rationing will continue throughout the rest of September and all of October, and may possibly be prolonged until the end of the year."

The CIG membership consists of 54 different trade associations representing activities that include food production, construction, the manufacture of agricultural chemicals and textiles, and the entire range of agroindustrial activity.

Ruiz explained, however, that one of the greatest concerns of the Chamber at the present moment is the supply of goods and services to the population.

This concern is caused by the decline in production that has logically ensued—a decline that is translated into a shortage of manufactured goods, inasmuch as some companies are having difficulty in obtaining and processing raw materials or producer goods.

It follows, he continued, that this situation probably also exists in the case of the products in the "basic family market basket" and will therefore put increased pressure on the consumer price index.

Another problem is that many manufacturing firms work more than one shift per day, and if the severe rationing of electricity persists it could result in an increasing level of unemployment.

Ruiz expressed the view that much disinformation unfortunately exists at the national level concerning the prevailing reality, because there are people who believe the crisis will be over in a couple of weeks.

"The biggest problem," he said, "is that many industries were not—or are not—prepared to cope with this type of

problem, and in particular are not prepared to acquire additional electrical equipment, which involves a large investment."

Moreover, he said, the nation is expending a large quantity of foreign exchange on the generation of electricity—a quantity that will suffice only until the end of the year, in addition to being a very poor-quality investment.

* Venezuela To Finance Hydroelectric Station

91CA0002D Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 14 Sep 91 p 11

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 September—The Venezuelan Government will finance the construction of the hydroelectric power station on Bobos River in Izabal Department, Venezuelan Ambassador Dr. Sadio Garavini di Turno has disclosed.

The South American diplomat said that the Venezuelan Investment Fund (FIV) has granted Guatemala a loan of \$15 million for this purpose.

The negotiations for the loan, he continued, are almost completed. Segeplan [Economic Planning General Secretariat] and the Ministry of Finance have approved the loan, he said, and the relevant documents were delivered several days ago to Congress, where they will be duly studied.

Garavini di Turno stated that as soon as the Guatemalan Congress accepts the grant of the loan, Venezuela will begin disbursement of the funds that will enable construction to begin on the Bobos River hydroelectric plant.

There is no doubt that the construction of a hydroelectric power station of the dimensions of the Bobos River plant will contribute enormously toward a medium-term solution of Guatemala's current problems in connection with electric power generation, the Venezuelan ambassador said in conclusion.

Honduras

Relations 'Tense' With U.S. Ambassador

PA2310035291 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2238 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 22 Oct (NOTIMEX)—The relations between the Government of Honduras and the U.S. Ambassador to Tegucigalpa Cresencio Arcos are experiencing "tense moments," due to statements by Arcos on Honduran internal matters.

Honduran Ambassador to Washington Ramon Hernandez Alcerro today said that the State Department knows about the situation.

President Rafael Leonardo Callejas and General Luis Alonso Discua, Armed Forces commander in chief, termed Arcos' statements as "meddling" in regard to the reduction of the Armed Forces and the murder of a student involving two high-ranking military officers.

Ambassador Arcos said he does not trust the Honduran justice system to solve the murder and has also made reference to the reduction of military forces and the budget of the Armed Forces.

Last week President Callejas said that if attention is paid to Ambassador Arcos "the Nicaraguan contras would still be in Honduras."

The Honduran ambassador to Washington noted: "To put it in diplomatic terms, the Honduran Government's relations with Arcos are currently experiencing tense moments and I hope that the current problem will be solved."

Diplomatic sources confirmed that the U.S. ambassador is in Washington for consultations.

Nicaragua

Workers, Police Clash Outside Labor Ministry

PA2210221491 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1815 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Report by Ernesto Garcia]

[Text] Good afternoon, listeners of Radio Nicaragua. We are here at the Labor Ministry, where two hours ago, there were riots between FNT [National Workers Front] supporters and the police. During the disturbances, police had to use tear gas to disperse demonstrators when they tried to jump over the fence that guards the Labor Ministry.

At the present time, the demonstrators are blocking all access gates to the Labor Ministry with trucks and cranes. Police officers and riot police remain in the area to prevent new clashes similar to those that took place two hours ago.

Some local radio stations have accused the labor minister of creating these disturbances, but official Labor Ministry sources have told Radio Nicaragua that Dr. Porras, Fetsalud [Federation of Health Workers] leader, encouraged the demonstrators.

Within a few minutes, we will be carrying statements by Labor Minister Francisco Rosales, explaining the regrettable incidents that took place in front of the Labor Ministry. These incidents have caused great concern among the personnel who work at the Labor Ministry. Now, let us go back to our studios.

Panama

Assembly Rejects Chevalier Censure Vote

PA2210193291 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Oct 91 p 1 A

[Article by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] The Legislative Assembly rejected a vote of censure against Government and Justice Minister Juan Chevalier last night, which had been intended to morally reprimand the government official who, as the superior of National Police Chief Gonzalo Menendez, did not discipline him for participating in party politics.

The assembly did not get the 45 votes needed to approve the motion against Chevalier.

The plenum voted secretly at 2200 on 21 October after having called for a permanent session at 2000. Ballots with a yes and a no were placed in a room adjacent to the debate room, where each of the 59 legislators chose a ballot and stuffed it inside a manila envelope.

Thirty-four legislators voted in favor of the censure, 23 voted against, while two votes were annulled. "The censure resolution has been rejected," said Legislative Assembly Secretary Ruben Arosemena.

Before the vote, Alberto Cigarruista, legislator for the ruling Authentic Liberal Party (PLA), asked National Police Chief Gonzalo Menendez to resign so that "credibility in the government is not lost."

Menendez participated as a delegate at the convention of Endara's Arnulfist Party in Penonome, Coclé Province, on 29 September, thereby violating Article 305 of the Constitution and Decree No. 38, which creates the Public Force and bans policemen from participating in politics.

During the debates, Guillermo Cochez of the PDC [Christian Democratic Party], said the Christian Democrats have no interest in "overthrowing" President Guillermo Endara. "We only want the law to be observed."

After Menendez' participation at the Arnulfist Party convention, Endara's admission that Menendez had violated the Constitution, and his decision to ratify Menendez in the post after demanding his resignation from the party, the assembly decided to discuss a vote of censure against the government minister.

To approve the censure, at least 45 votes were needed of the 67 legislators who compose the Legislative Branch.

The vote of censure would not have had any legal effect on the government minister because he was appointed by President Endara. But political observers believe that, had the vote been approved, Chevalier would have been morally forced to resign.

Defending Chevalier, Lucas Zarak of the PLA said the assembly is "miserably" losing time discussing matters related to the vote of censure because there are so many laws that remain to be approved.

He said the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] and the PDC are united "like sheep, engaging in political chicanery and supporting the vote of censure. That is a political marriage, a special combination. The PDC legislators, who believe they are without fault and incapable of violating any laws, joined with those in the PRD who supported Noriega."

Cigarruista said it is a mistake to discuss a vote of censure against Chevalier because it is not up to him to appoint or to dismiss the police chief.

He criticized the PRD for having been the political wing of the military officers "who violated the rights of the Panamanian people, which will never be forgotten," he added.

The PLA legislator said the best thing Menendez can do for the country is to resign from his post as National Police chief so that the people know the government obeys the law, because the new Panamanian political classes need the necessary morals to lead the country in the future.

PRD Legislator Gerardo Gonzalez said that Menendez remained politically active after he took the position of police chief, contrary to what the law allows.

"The security apparatus must be depoliticized. We cannot allow the police to become the political force of one of the ruling parties," he added.

Opposition PRD Legislator Balbina Herrera said the debate on the vote of censure against Chevalier is only the beginning. The assembly must be committed to politically trying all those ministers who break the law.

"President Endara said his administration would remain crystal clear but what we have is a lot of murky water," she said.

Raul Ossa of the PDC said that Menendez, in his letter of resignation to the Arnulfist Party, stated that he reserves the right to rejoin the political organization after the vote of censure is discussed at the assembly. "That letter is offensive and constitutes mockery by the police chief," he added.

It is Menendez himself who must account for his actions and not Chevalier. That is reality and nothing else, Escalona said.

Hours before the session, Chevalier stated that he was not worried about being put on the stand by the vote of censure, because the legislators' decision is an "academic manifestation, with no practical effects."

Chevalier said that there are people who wish to imagine that they live in another country, where there is a parliamentary system, "and not the presidential system in effect here, in which a vote of censure is a "purely political matter."

Argentina**Presidential Letters to Journalists Cause Unease**

PY2210233091 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES
HERALD in English 22 Oct 91 p 11

[Report by Uki Goni]

[Text] President Carlos Menem has written letters to Argentina's leading journalists and personalities asking for their opinion of his administration so far, causing unease among some recipients who are later contacted by Media Secretariat officials to demand a prompt reply.

No public statement has been made so far regarding the letters, and it is not known what criteria was followed in drawing up the mailing list. Journalists who have received the phone calls, sometimes at their homes, demanding a reply, have been offered to have their response picked up by private courier.

Journalists who answer they have not prepared a reply to Menem's letter are given a direct phone number at the Media Secretariat and the name of an official to contact who will arrange to have their response picked up.

Some journalists feel the letters, and the insistence on a reply, infringes on their freedom of thought, and that their response could at some time be used to hinder or advance their careers. The letters, which have also been received by HERALD journalists, read:

"Friend and Brother,

I believe the time has come to talk to one another.

We are going through the toughest state of the battle against inflation, decay, corruption and uncertainty. But this is also the most decisive time, when Argentina's fate is being decided for good or ill.

In these past two years of government we've been moving upwards, and the horizon is beginning to look promising.

Today as never before Argentina has need of the majority of its people, those who ask what they can give, not what this country can offer them in these difficult times, who stand tall and hopeful, because they know they're on the right path.

I have decided to address people like you, those who know how to interpret and communicate an Argentina notable for its intelligence, not its low cunning.

You have been continually helpful, not to the government but to the country, that's why you're worthwhile and that's why I'm writing to you now.

That's why I'm writing to you with the certainty of finding a kindred spirit, able to make further efforts to reach a goal of stable growth, which is what all of us are after.

I do so bearing in mind that, as General Peron said, "the best don't come forward on their own, one has to go out and find them."

This is not an appeal to sectarian interests, those of management, workers, the world of the arts, or any political group.

To have Argentina prosperous is something of benefit to us all. I have appealed to everyone, but on this particular occasion I have wanted to appeal directly to those who are most enterprising, the ones whose minds are clearest, those who play an active, daily part in their place of work, which is like a barricade where our nationhood is reaffirmed every day.

That is why I want to ask you, to invite you, to join me in this daily battle, one I'm anxious to share with you. Through opinions, ideas and advice that you can send me, with a great deal of frankness and very little standing on ceremony, because we all know how to distinguish between what is important and what's irrelevant.

I know that this letter will mean a great deal to you because you are someone I recognize as sharing values and aims. This is not a message in a bottle cast into the sea, nor is it one of those Presidential monologues we've heard so often in this country.

This my sincere call for help.

Because you need it.

Because I do.

But in the last resort because Argentina does; this country we're all a part of.
President Carlos Menem."

Economic Secretary Announces Insurance Reform

PY2210233491 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES
HERALD in English 22 Oct 91 p 5

[Text] (DYN)—A series of measures deregulating the insurance market was announced yesterday by Economic Coordination Secretary Carlos Sanchez. These measures include privatizing the reinsurance market and granting companies the operative freedom to set insurance premiums.

At a lecture delivered yesterday to celebrate Insurance Day, Sanchez admitted that the proposed reforms will produce job losses. The INDER national reinsurance institute will set aside funds to honour severance payments, Sanchez added.

Moreover, INDER debts will be paid off through a seven percent tax to be levied on insurance premiums, Sanchez pointed out. The government proposal is resisted by the labour sector. Government policies "aim at giving away the whole insurance business to the private sector," a National Savings Bank communique said yesterday.

The National Savings Bank showed a profit of 80 million dollars last year, the press statement added. "The

INDER will be included in the State Reform Law, and the monopoly it enjoys has its days numbered," Sanchez said.

The INDER currently has a monopoly of the reinsurance market. The government's aim is that "reinsurance activities develop freely, without state intervention," he added.

The draft bill privatizing the reinsurance market underwent some changes at the Lower House of Congress. One of the changes specifies that the INDER pay its debts by levying a tax on insurance premiums. The seven percent tax will be gradually lowered by the executive branch, Sanchez revealed.

Insurance Superintendent Alberto Fernandez is optimistic that the restructuring of the sector will result in the lowering of premiums. The deregulation was planned taking into account the experiences of Mexico, Colombia and the EC countries, he added. The restructuring of the sector will be implemented gradually, Fernandez concluded.

Bolivia

Central Bank Reports Export, Import Figures

PY2210142091 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
14 Oct 91 p 4

[Summary] The Bolivian Central Bank has reported that during the first semester of 1991 Bolivia exported goods worth \$414.5 million and imported goods worth \$378.4 million. Public sector exports totaled \$197.7 million and private sector exports totaled \$216.8 million.

Public sector imports totaled \$33 million while the private sector imports totaled \$345.4 million.

New Newspaper AHORA Begins Publication

PY2210143091 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish
12 Oct 91 p 11

[Summary] A new newspaper called AHORA appeared for the first time on 11 October in Tarija. The morning daily is published by the editorial firm Guadalquivir and it is directed by journalist Luis Arellano Castaneda who said that the daily will be sold nationally and will emphasize Tarija's interests.

Brazil

FRG's Kohl Begins Visit; Speech Reaction

LD2310082691 Hamburg DPA in German 0220 GMT
23 Oct 91

[Text] Iguacu (DPA)—Federal Republic of Germany Chancellor Helmut Kohl arrived in the city of Iguacu in southwest Brazil late on Tuesday evening. This is the first stop of his seven-day official visit to the largest Latin American country. Today he will visit the largest

hydroelectric power station in the world which is situated in Itaipu. Construction of the power station began in 1966 and was only recently completed.

On Wednesday the chancellor will go to Blumenau in southern Brazil, founded by German settlers in the last century. Kohl ended his four-day visit to Chile yesterday with a speech to the parliament in Valparaiso. There was a sensation there when deputies belonging to right-wing conservative parties left the parliament in protest at a comment made by Kohl.

Kohl had drawn a parallel between overcoming the unjust regime in Chile and in the GDR and said those responsible for the dictatorship should be brought to justice. Kohl continued the speech and it was subsequently greeted with great applause.

In Iguacu, Government Spokesman Dieter Vogel said with regard to the incident in Valparaiso that Kohl had not wanted to interfere in Chile's internal affairs. He rather intended to illustrate the Germans' experiences in overcoming the SED dictatorship and he had wanted to point out to them that a reappraisal of the past is necessary.

Meets Paraguayan Official

LD2310115491 Hamburg DPA in German 1123 GMT
23 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Iguacu (DPA)—Federal Republic of Germany Chancellor Helmut Kohl visited today the largest hydroelectric power station in the world near the Iguacu Falls in southern Brazil. The Itaipu Dam is almost 200 meters high and 7.8 km long. Its construction began in 1966 with the involvement of German firms and was only recently completed. Eighteen turbines here produce a total of 12,600 megawatts of electricity.

Kohl met the Paraguayan foreign minister, Alexis Frutos Vaesken, near the dam which borders on Paraguay. [passage omitted]

Businessmen Meet With Government Economic Team

PY2310113691 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo
Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Some 60 leading businessmen have met with the government's economic team in Sao Paulo. Central Bank Chairman Francisco Gros reaffirmed the government's monetary policy while the businessmen asked for some changes in that policy.

The businessmen agree with the basic line of measures but insist that the attempt to control inflation by increasing interest rates represents a huge risk because production can become uneconomic.

The government admits that the cost of money is high but countered by stating that tax reductions on financial operations are being analyzed.

The team guaranteed that there will be no new shock measures.

Gros made it clear to businessmen that the present monetary policy will not be changed. The Central Bank will continue to make every effort to avoid excess liquidity, which results from the issuance of a large quantity of money in the market that can cause uncontrollable inflation. This means that interest rates will continue to be high.

[Begin Gros recording] Our efforts seek to maintain interest rates at a real level, which I believe concerns everyone who is trying to save money. [end recording]

Army Approves Inflated Bids for Uniforms

PY2310005091 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 20 Oct 91 p 10

[Report by Rodrigo Franca Taves]

[Excerpts] Sao Paulo—On 21 October the Army is going to approve a tender amounting to 130 billion cruzeiros for the purchase of uniforms, and bed and bath linens at inflated prices. The articles to be purchased are priced five times more than current market prices on the average and there are cases of articles priced at almost 10 times the market price.

If these same items were purchased from retailers, where they are normally much more expensive, the Army's total expenditure for the operation would be lowered by some 80 billion cruzeiros, the total sum of the presumed loss for the entire purchase. O GLOBO carried out an investigation into retail prices in shops that specialize in military articles in Sao Paulo, Porto Alegre, and Rio de Janeiro.

The tender was issued in August by the Materiel Department of the General Services Department. It was closed on 14 October in a room at Fort Apache, as Army Headquarters is known, in Brasilia, and the prices of those that won the tender were revealed. The selection was made by a commission of six active duty colonels. [passage omitted]

The purchase is for the Army's 218,000 men and the numbers of the deal are impressive: green canvas trousers, 418,000; short-sleeved camouflage shirts, 713,000; jungle boots, 306,000; and cotton socks, 638,000, in addition to belts; badges; gloves; shelters for training purposes; linens; towels; and bed covers. The winning prices on most of the items are much higher than retail prices.

The tender indicated fixed prices without adjustments. Tender 7/91 only establishes a maximum 120-day period to conclude the hand over of the items in the country's units and garrisons, leaving open the possibility that short-term supplies will be paid for immediately by the Quartermaster Materiel Directorate. This makes invalid

the justification that the prices approved by the Army will be inflated with corrections based on inflation on the date of payment.

Article 22 of Decree Law No. 2300, which governs official tenders, calls for the immediate cancellation of tenders if it is verified that the prices are higher than those of the market in order to "preserve public assets." [passage omitted]

The owner of Casa Magalhaes Sucupira, Rio de Janeiro, an enterprise that specializes in military uniforms and which also participated in the tender, winning some items, admitted on 18 October that "the prices were much higher."

President Suspends Tenders

PY2310005491 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 22 Oct 91 p 3

[Text] Brasilia—President Fernando Collor announced yesterday that as long as irregularities are not cleared up, tenders announced by the Army for the purchase of uniforms, bed linens, and bath linens will not be approved. According to a report published by O GLOBO on 20 October, winners of tenders have submitted inflated prices. According to Collor, approval of the tenders, which was slated for yesterday and was suspended, will not take place "until all possible doubts are cleared up with regard to the tenders."

On 20 October, Collor told Army Minister General Carlos Tinoco to investigate the report about irregularities in the tenders. The report was handed over to General Tinoco by Military Household Chief General Agenor Homem de Carvalho as soon as Collor learned about it. According to the report, the winners of tenders had the prices inflated by suppliers.

On arriving at Planalto Palace yesterday, Collor said: "Of course this must be completely clarified—as always—in a transparent manner for the information of society."

Justice Minister Jarbas Passarinho also suggested on 20 October an investigation into the tenders, which will reportedly represent a loss of 80 billion cruzeiros for the Army due to the inflated prices submitted by the winners of the tenders.

Army Asserts Tenders Legal

PY2310010891 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network
in Portuguese 2100 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] The Army Social Communications Center [Comsex] released today a statement to the press about the report published in the newspaper O GLOBO on the tenders for the purchase of military uniforms.

Signed by Brigadier General Nialdo Neves de Oliveira Bastos, the statement reads that the tenders announced by the Army complied with strict regulations and was carried out according to current federal laws.

It adds that 53 companies participated in the tenders: two were disqualified; four received partial authorization; and 47 obtained full authorization, and 35 of them had winning tenders for different items.

The statement adds that the Army has asked for an additional credit of 64 billion cruzeiros for the purchase of uniforms, and that this credit has not yet been granted. This proves that the newspaper report that the Army is losing 80 billion cruzeiros is false.

It adds that the results of the tenders will not be endorsed until the credit is granted. It reads that all Army tenders are controlled by the National Accounting Office, the president of which told the newspaper ZERO HORA on 22 September 1991 that as far as technical quality in submitting accounts is concerned, the Armed Forces have been exemplary.

The Army regrets the publication of this matter in a hasty manner, with unconfirmed information and inappropriate conclusions.

The Comsex statement concludes by posing a question: Who would be interested in such an irresponsible procedure?

* Continuing Export Drop in Last Quarter Seen

92SM0022B Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL
in Portuguese 27 Sep 91 p 3

[Report by Rio correspondent Livia Ferrari]

[Text] "Judging by the drop in exchange contract transactions observed in recent months and in September, export performance will remain weak during the last quarter of the year."

Those predictions come from the National Confederation of Industries (CNI), which sees it unlikely that a trade surplus larger than \$12 billion can be achieved in 1991. The forecasts were published yesterday in its Trends Report for September by the CNI's Economics Department. The document cites some factors that have contributed to the retraction in overseas sales and in the reduced volume of exchange contracts concluded for export purposes during August (\$2.563 billion compared with \$3.090 billion in July). Postponement of shipments is one of the factors.

CNI specialists believe the announcement of the changes in the procedures for operating in the commercial exchange market, with the introduction of a mechanism by which foreign exchange can be auctioned by pre-selected dealers, has led to expectations in the market that this might be an initial step toward unifying the exchange market. "If that should actually happen, there would be a significant adjustment in exchange rate quotations and so it would be advantageous to postpone exports," they explain.

According to the report, the start of the refund of the blocked new cruzados, which was scheduled for August,

may also have been an additional factor discouraging the occasional exporter "who may have preferred to avoid committing a significant part of his output to the foreign market in the hope of making bigger profits from a possible revival of internal demand."

Besides the difficulties in finding export financing, particularly crucial for sales of capital goods (which need longer repayment periods), the CNI study mentions the negative impact of the downward trend in international commodities prices, which significantly influenced the list of Brazilian exports. "Soybean quotes fell by 5 percent during the past 12 months, sugar prices declined 17 percent during the same period, and orange juice fell by more than 13 percent."

That picture is further dimmed by the continued depressed foreign demand, especially from the developed countries. But the CNI study does not fail to mention another factor, the "instability in the exchange rate, which has been holding to a trend of rising real value." According to CNI calculations using as deflator the Wholesale Price Index for Industry (IPA) published by the Getulio Vargas Foundation, "one sees a rise of 8.7 percent, in real terms, in the exchange rate when comparing the indices for August with those of May." Likewise, according to the CNI, the loss in the competitiveness of Brazilian exports is further attributed to the "sharp deterioration in the exchange-wage ratio (nominal average wage calculated by FIESP [Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries]) between April and June."

* Government Prepares New Agricultural Package

92SM0022A Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 21 Sep 91 p 27

[Text] Brasilia—The federal government has decided that starting next week it will take emergency steps to prevent another disastrous agricultural harvest. Minister of Agriculture Antonio Cabrera announced yesterday that a comprehensive agricultural package is being readied to reduce financing costs to farmers and facilitate creation of new funding sources for the sector. Minister Cabrera even conceded that subsidies might be established for basic products so as to guarantee farmers a better return.

The agriculture minister said he was basing his actions on instructions from President Fernando Collor de Mello "who absolutely does not want to see a repetition of the most recent harvest." The 1990/91 harvest of 57 million tons of grain was the worst recorded in Brazil in recent years. The target for 1991/92, according to Cabrera, is 65 million tons.

Among the farm support measures to be launched by the Ministry of Agriculture is a renegotiation of the farmers' debts to Banco do Brazil, which would make it possible, Minister Cabrera believes, to ensure that the sector will not face a capitalization crisis. Another change being considered is expansion of the resources from the DER (Special Remunerated Deposits) used for farm financing.

The proposal advocated by the Ministry of Agriculture calls for increasing the portion earmarked for the government banks from 20 to 30 percent and the portion for the private banks from 10 percent to 20 percent. The DER investment mechanism brings together the unblocked new cruzados that have not been withdrawn by the investors.

The initial measures to benefit agriculture will be considered at the next meeting of the National Monetary Council, scheduled for this coming Wednesday. The administration's idea is to assure that small and medium-scale farmers will also be able to get funding at lower interest rates. The present farm policy does not help those farmers, which is why crops like rice and soybeans are threatened by the rise in interest rates. On Thursday, organizations associated with the sector met with officials from the economic area to discuss the emergency package, but the debates are beginning this weekend. Cabrera, who had scheduled a trip to Madrid, canceled all his appointments in order to coordinate the negotiations.

* France Delays Finalizing Aircraft Purchases

92SM0022D Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
inPortuguese 21 Sep 91 p 30

[Article by Patricia Saboia]

[Text] Paris—The deal is not going to go through. France has gnawed away the rope that held together the purchase of the Tucano aircraft. This is the suspicion that Brazilian sources in Paris have been living with recently, which has made it extremely tough to deal with the French officials involved in the transaction.

Although no one can confirm it officially, it is impossible not to notice that France has been "dragging its heels," regarding a final decision on the subject.

"We have already bought the Phanter helicopters from them, from Aerospatiale, and those planes are already in Taubate but the French have bought nothing"—said one exasperated source, arguing that Brazil feels "hood-winked, since the deal was made on a reciprocal basis", and the Brazilian government has already bought all the French helicopters it had committed itself to as a counterpart.

Contract Worth About \$100 Million

The climate is, visibly, one of irritation. After all, the 85 Tucano trainer aircraft that the French Air Force ordered from Embraer are still sitting in the hangars in Sao Jose dos Campos because of French government indecisiveness in handling a sale worth \$100 million (440.5 million cruzeiros at the commercial rate).

But what are the French claiming? First, Embraer received some messages that the replacement of Prime Minister Michel Rocard with Edith Cresson would send the whole process practically back to square one, that it

would have to be re-examined. "Just bureaucratic questions, that's all," explained the source. Now it is being said—but only unofficially—that "the country is cutting its military and weapons spending and this would not be a good time" to close the deal.

It was in Paris that the Tucano began its ascent to success, when Egyptian officials came to see it and ordered almost 100 planes.

Now a more sophisticated version will be entered in the contest of the year: the battle to supply no fewer than 800 airplanes for the United States.

It is vital for Embraer that France go ahead with the contract, not only because of the \$100 million, but to enable the firm to build the super-Tucano. Powered by a 1600 hp engine, that plane will have to face the Swiss Pilatos, its strongest competitor, in the U.S. competition.

* Embraer Receives Funds for AMX Program

92SM0022C Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL
in Portuguese (Economic Section) 27 Sep 91 p 10

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos—The government has authorized a line of credit of 7.5 billion cruzeiros for Embraer, the Brazilian Aeronautics Company, in response to a request from Aeronautics Minister Brigadier General Socrates Monteiro. The money will be spent on the AMX, a fighter-bomber being built in conjunction with two Italian aircraft factories, Alenia (formerly Aeritalia) and Aeromacchi. Embraer said yesterday that the funds will be earmarked to pay suppliers in order to avoid having to pay interest charges and penalties imposed for late payment.

The funds for the AMX will be obtained by reshuffling the budget appropriations received by the Ministry of Aeronautics. The request was justified on the grounds of the need to "preserve the binational relationship between Brazil and Italy and fulfill the contract." Work on the project on the Brazilian side is significantly behind schedule. Last year, budget cuts forced on the armed forces scaled back the pace of Embraer's production from 12 to eight AMX's per year. For every three airplanes made in Italy, one is made in Brazil.

It cost about \$1 billion—33 percent from the Brazilian government—to develop the project before mass production began in 1987. The Brazilian Air Force (FAB) has already received ten planes, assigned to the Santa Cruz (Rio de Janeiro State) Air Base. FAB has placed an order for 79 units and the Italian Air Force has ordered 221.

Chile

Conservatives Walk Out During Kohl Address

LD2210182191 Hamburg DPA in German 1541 GMT
22 Oct 91

[Text] Valparaiso, 22 Oct (DPA)—A sensation was caused during FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl's speech to

the Chilean National Congress in Valparaiso today. When Kohl called in his speech for the injustices perpetrated under the dictatorship to be cleared up and reappraised, and those responsible to be called to account, about two dozen conservative deputies walked out of the chamber. The parliament's presidium had to use a bell to bring the deputies to order. Kohl continued his speech and added that internal reconciliation was also necessary in Chile as otherwise there could be no peace among the people. In front of the doors to the parliament, the conservative deputies stated angrily that Kohl had split Chilean society: "We will not be lectured to, and we are not a European colony," an official said. The text of the disputed passage in Kohl's speech was: "Above all—and we share this experience with the Chilean people—the regime of injustice scored deep wounds in the hearts of the people. It is necessary to clear up and to reappraise the injustices perpetrated by the dictatorship, to call to account those responsible and, as far as possible, to see that justice is done to the victims." At this point, the right-wing politicians left the parliament. Kohl's critics are independent democrats and members of the Party of National Renewal, which together have about 50 deputies and senators in the Chilean parliament. Kohl's speech to the parliament was to be the highlight of and conclusion to the chancellor's four-day visit to Chile. Kohl is traveling to Brazil this evening.

Further on Speech, Walkout

PY2210192691 Santiago Radio Chilena Network
in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Report by Jose Manriquez Contreras from Valparaiso]

[Text] German Chancellor Helmut Kohl was abruptly interrupted while addressing the Chilean Congress plenum meeting in Valparaiso this morning when he criticized what he called General Pinochet's dictatorship. As Kohl was delivering his speech in German while most congressmen were listening to a translation over ear phones, National Renewal and UDI [Independent Democratic Union] senators and deputies voiced their disgust, stood up, and left the floor.

Hugo Ortiz de Filippi approached the rostrum where Kohl was delivering his speech and reprehended him for his words. Senate President Gabriel Valdez asked the opposition congressmen to reconsider their decision, but his request went unheard.

After leaving the floor, Hugo Ortiz de Filippi explained his attitude and that of the other congressmen who followed his example:

[Begin recording] We cannot tolerate their attitude of deciding to teach us political lessons and cannot tolerate their attempt to compare the Armed Forces regime to the 40 years of political paralysis experienced by the inhabitants of the GDR as a result of the communist system that administered the country.

What happened in Chile is that in 1973, our Armed Forces prevented us from experiencing the destiny of the GDR's inhabitants, who had 40 years of political paralysis, misery, and a truly difficult situation.

Fortunately, Germany has overcome that situation and freed itself. We managed to do the same within three years. This deed must be accorded all the importance it deserves. Our Armed Forces and our security forces deserve respect not only from all Chileans, but also from the entire universe. Therefore, we do not allow or accept this sort of attitude from misinformed personalities who may have been misinformed by distorted reports from sources within the current government, as a result of which they make such huge mistakes.

We praise the German effort to overcome difficulties in the way they have. We value the German people's effort, which has achieved unity, but we absolutely cannot accept their lessons on democracy. Chile has always lived in democracy. Chile did not have a Nazi Germany, nor 40 years of communism. Chile managed to recover its freedom thanks to our Armed Forces and our forces of order. [end recording]

Here is Deputy Maria Angelica Cristi, who also left the floor:

[Begin recording] I am extremely disillusioned by this man whom all Chileans look up to as the great leader responsible for German unification. We believe it is extremely unfair that after succeeding in uniting the Germans, he comes here today to divide the Chileans, who have advanced a great deal in the reconsolidation of democracy and of all Chileans. This is truly an incident that will again create differences in our country. He does not have the right to come to Chile to divide the people. [end recording]

The solemn session was opened with speeches by Gabriel Valdez and Chamber of Deputies President Antonio Viera-Gallo. The session was also attended by Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma; Defense Minister Patricio Rojas; Justice Minister Francisco Cumplido; and German ministers.

The Armed Forces were represented by Air General Ramon Vega, Air Force chief of staff; Carabineros Director Rodolfo Stange; General Jorge Lucar, Army deputy commander in chief; and Rear Admiral Oscar Vidal Wlton, commander of the 1st Naval Zone. Valparaiso Archbishop Francisco Valenzuela; Auxiliary Bishop Javier Prado Aranguiz; regional officials; special guests; and members of the German colony in Chile also attended the session.

Kohl Comments on Reaction

PY2310024291 Santiago Television Nacional
de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Excerpt] The German chancellor spoke to this news program after a luncheon in his honor that was hosted by

the presidents of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies at Rioja Palace in Vina del Mar.

[Begin Kohl recording, in German followed by Spanish translation] Chile will ensure its future only if it opens to the world. This means that Chile must also listen to what the world says. Just as I, as a German, must listen to what the world has to say about Germany. This does not mean that I am trying to intervene in Chilean internal affairs. The human rights issue is a matter of human beings and not of countries. This was and is my message. It is a message of friendship for all Chileans, and if you so wish it, it is a message of reconciliation. This is the last comment I want to make: I have studied a great deal about Chile and its history, especially its recent history, and I have not come with any prejudices. I have no prejudices. I have come as a friend of your country, and now that I am leaving, I hope I have become a better friend of Chile. This cannot change following the statements made by some congressmen. I, myself, have been a congressman for 33 years. People may speak and protest freely in congress. Transmit my cordial greetings to all your fellow countrymen. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Aylwin Denounces Walkout

PY2310022091 *Santic Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 22 Oct 91*

[Text] President Aylwin has denounced the incident that took place this morning in Congress and has expressed his solidarity with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. This was reported by Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma who, after speaking on the telephone with Aylwin, passed this message to the German leader.

Kohl left Chile today at 1700 after being paid honors by the Captain Avalos Military School band. After saying goodbye to Minister Silva, Kohl greeted employees of Arturo Merino Benitez International Airport. Before the departure of the German Air Force Boeing 707, Minister Silva said he believes that Kohl's speech to Congress did not deserve the reaction of opposition congressmen, who walked out of Congress in the middle of his speech.

[Begin recording] [Silva] President Aylwin asked me to tell Chancellor Kohl that he deplored what happened and that naturally, he expressed solidarity with the manner in which he expressed himself on the subject.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Silva] I am flatly telling you what President Aylwin said. He asked me to tell Chancellor Kohl that he expresses solidarity with his speech and that he deplores what happened. [end recording]

The attitude of the opposition congressmen, Silva said, shows that they cannot listen to an authority's opinion about what has happened and about what the peace and reconciliation processes have meant, which is what Kohl said in the part to which they did not listen.

Making an assessment of Kohl's visit, the foreign minister said that the German chancellor's four-day visit to Chile was extremely positive. Germany has expressed its firm support for our position on protectionist issues in trade relations with Europe. Helmut Kohl has now departed from Brazil.

Kohl on Bilateral Relations

LD2310074191 *Hamburg DPA in German 1959 GMT 21 Oct 91*

[Text] Santiago (DPA)—Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl has described German-Chilean relations as exemplary. At a banquet given in his honor tonight by President Patricio Aylwin in Santiago's Moneda Palace, Kohl said: "The common acknowledgement of the basic values of democracy and pluralism, of a state based on the rule of law and human rights is the foundation on which we are now building."

Chile's speedy return to its 180-year democratic tradition has set standards both in Latin America and worldwide. The country's economy is impressing the world through its continually increasing power, Kohl said. Chile's social market economy is "today already the model for many countries in Latin America". Kohl also took this opportunity to assure Chile of the Federal Republic's complete support for the economic building up in the country.

The chancellor will end his four-day visit to Chile tomorrow with a speech to the country's parliament in Valparaiso. Afterwards he is traveling to Brazil.

Army Communique Announces Senior Appointments

PY2310030891 *Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 18 Oct 91 p 6*

[Report by Hernan Garcia]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Army has issued a communique that reads:

"At the end of the annual qualification process affecting Army senior officers and commanders and considering that the president of the Republic has accepted the Army's proposals on promotions, retirements, and appointments to the Army High Command, the Army Press Department herewith reports to the public:

"1. Brigadier General Ramon Castro Ivanovic, who has been promoted to major general, is appointed personnel director.

"2. The following brigadiers have been promoted to brigadier general: Arturo Silva Souper, who is appointed the new director of the Army Rationalization and Development Directorate; Sergio Moreno Saravia, who is appointed the new attache to the United States; Eugenio Covarrubias Valenzuela, who is appointed the new intelligence director; and Juan Stiven Silva, who is appointed the new transport director.

"3. The voluntary retirements submitted by Brigadier Generals Carlos Parera Silva and Manuel Concha Martinez have been accepted."

The new Army High Command for 1992 will be made up of the following officers:

Commander in Chief	Captain General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte
Army Deputy Commander	Lieutenant General Jorge Lucar
1st Army Corps Commander	Major General Luis Patricio Serre
National Defense Chief of Staff	Major General Luis Henriquez
Chief of the General Staff	Major General Rodrigo Sanchez
Head of the Commander in Chief's Advisory Committee	Major General Jorge Ballerino
Commander of the Southern Military Region	Major General Miguel Espinoza
(Major General Hector Darrigrandi will occupy the post of deputy commander)	
Inspector General	Major General Guillermo Garin
Operations Director	Major General Richard Quaas
Personnel Director	Major General Ramon Castro
Army Chaplain	Brigadier General Joaquin Matte
Chief of War Materiel Department	Brigadier General Florencio Tejos
Director General for National Mobilization	Brigadier General Eterio Pavez
Commander of the Ordnance and Engineering Command	Brigadier General Fernando Hormazabal
Administrative Support Commander	Brigadier General Sergio Urrutia
Commander of the Military Institutes	Brigadier General Jaime Concha
Military Geographic Institute Director	Brigadier General Carlos Carvallo
Commander of the Santiago Metropolitan Garrison	Brigadier General Guido Riquelme
Logistic Support Commander	Brigadier General Carlos Rudloff
3d Army Division Commander	Brigadier General Ricardo Gaete
Engineering Commander	Brigadier General Hernan Abad
5th Army Division Commander	Brigadier General Juan Solari
2d Army Division Commander	Brigadier General Hernan Ramirez
Army National Academy for Political and Strategic Studies	Brigadier General Javier Salazar
Logistic Director	Brigadier General Carlos Krumm
7th Army Division Commander	Brigadier General Jose Carrera
6th Army Division Commander	Brigadier General Jorge Lagos
Chief of the Health Department	Brigadier General German Kuhlmann
Prosecutor General	Brigadier General Fernando Torres

4th Army Division Commander	Brigadier General Rafael Villarroel
Commander of the Telecommunications Command	Brigadier General Ricardo Contreras
2d Army Division Deputy Commander	Brigadier General Humberto Julio
Attache to Spain	Brigadier General Ramon Valdes
Commander of the Rancagua Garrison	Brigadier General Eugenio Videla
Army Ordnance (FAMAE) Director	Brigadier General Hector Guillermo Letelier
Iquique Garrison Commander	Brigadier General Patricio Acevedo
Training Director	Brigadier General Luis Cortes

Air Force Promotions, New Postings Announced

PY2310012691 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 18 Oct 91 p 6

[Text] The Chilean Air Force [FACH] officially released yesterday the names of those who will make up the new High Command, including promotions, retirements, and new postings, which will be in effect as of 1 January 1992. LA TERCERA DE LA HORA has learned that Generals Fernando Silva, Rene Alzerreca, and Guillermo Aird have been transferred to the retirement list. The following colonels have been promoted to general: Carlos Alvarez, Juan Bulo, Horacio Besoain, and Enrique Montealegre.

Other important news is the promotion to the rank of "Air Force General" of Brigadier Generals Patricio Araya and Jose de la Fuente, and the maintenance of the same number of generals (19).

The 1992 High Command

According to the report, the new FACH organization is as follows:

Air Force General Ramon Vega	Commander in Chief
Air Force General Fernando Rojas	Chief of Staff
Air Force General Jorge Iturriaga	Chief of the Logistics Command
Air Force General Patricio Araya	Chief of the Personnel Command
Air Force General Jose de la Fuente	Aeronautics Director
Brigadier General Arthur Clark	Logistics Command Operations Division
Brigadier General Jaime Estay	Operations Director
Brigadier General Jorge Lemus	Health Department Director
Brigadier General Patricio Cifuentes	Air Force Attache to the United States
Brigadier General Nelson Matu-rana	Administration Director
Brigadier General Maximo Venegas	Commander of the 2d Brigade and of the Santiago Air Force Garrison

Brigadier General Carlos Infante	Intelligence Director
Brigadier General Raul Tapia	Commander in Chief of the 4th Air Force Brigade (Punta Arenas)
Brigadier General Leonardo Prado	Air and Telecommunications Defense Director
Brigadier General Adolfo Celedon	FACH Auditor General

Italian Bank Authorized To Use Foreign Credits

PY2310122891 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 11 Oct 91 p B3

[Text] The Central Bank has authorized the San Paolo di Torino Banking Institute of Italy to use foreign credits amounting to \$5.8 million, with the exclusive objective of converting the foreign debt according to Chapter 19 of the manual of rules on International Exchange system.

The operation relates to an investment the San Paolo di Torino Institute will sign through an agreement with the Chilean Development Bank.

Case Reopened in Murder of British Reporter

PY2310023291 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] The legal process in the murder of British journalist Jonathan Moyle has been reopened. This decision was made by the 9th Santiago Appellate Court following a request by lawyer Jorge Trivino. The case had been temporarily closed by Judge Isidro Solis.

Colombia

Haitian De Facto President Rumored To Be Dead

PY2210173091 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Colombian Foreign Minister Fernando Jaramillo has reported in Santa Fe de Bogota that he has received unconfirmed information that the provisional Haitian President Joseph Nerette died two days ago.

According to Jaramillo, Nerette apparently suffered serious health problems and died on 20 October. Jaramillo said that former Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono, who is currently Colombian ambassador to the OAS, reported last night that Nerette suffered an attack [not further specified].

Nerette, the oldest member of the Haitian Supreme Court, was installed as president a week ago when constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted during the coup d'etat.

[Begin Daniela Araneda recording] We are receiving contradictory reports about Haitian President Joseph Nerette's alleged death. According to independent Radio Metropole, new Haitian President Joseph Nerette, who

was elected by the military did not die. He is recovering from a heart attack a few days ago.

Colombian Foreign Minister Fernando Jaramillo reported that he has been told that President Joseph Nerette, 67, died on 20 October.

Haitian official sources have reported that Nerette was suffering from serious influenza. [end recording]

Further on Nerette

PA2210181391 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1752 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Provisional Haitian President Joseph Nerette has reportedly died of health problems. Foreign Minister Luis Fernando Jaramillo, who will be traveling to Mexico with the Colombian president, said in Santa Fe de Bogota 22 October. The death of the provisional Haitian president has not been confirmed.

Venezuelan Defense Minister Interviewed

PA2310023391 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 16 Oct 91 p 3A

[Interview with Venezuelan Defense Minister General Antonio Ochoa Antich by Jorge Gonzalez in Santa Fe de Bogota on 15 October]

[Text] [Gonzalez] In addition to conciliation efforts conducted by Colombia and Venezuela and the advancements in the integration process, Venezuela seems to have gradually strengthened the deterrent capacity of its military forces.

[Ochoa] Our military concept has always been to have small, but efficient Armed Forces. If we compare the number of soldiers in the Colombian and Venezuelan Armed Forces, we will see that there is great difference, which can be as much as three to one in favor of the Colombian forces. We have always believed that the deterrent capacity is not based on the size of the Armed Forces, but on their efficiency. We have preferred to invest in improving our technical capacity to strengthen our military capacity.

[Gonzalez] To what extent has this deterrent capacity been conditioned by the historical and prolonged border conflict?

[Ochoa] The technical development of the Venezuelan Armed Forces has not really been linked to the territorial dispute with Colombia. The period of highest technical development of the Venezuelan Armed Forces was under our last dictator, when investments above our budget limitations were made. The situation of territorial tension did not exist then. We must remember that the process for the delimitation of marine and submarine areas began in 1964. There were no major problems from 1941, when the Lopez-Santos Treaty was signed, to 1964, with the exception of the Los Monjes incident.

Then, a couple of serious problems occurred in 1967 and 1987, the latter related to the crisis of the ARC Caldas Corvette, which although dangerous, did not develop into a military confrontation.

[Gonzalez] What importance does Venezuela give to military expenses today?

[Ochoa] The government does not give military expenses a high priority. If you study the Venezuelan defense budget, you can see that our share in the central budget—without considering the decentralized budget—is only 5.8 percent. We handle a budget of 63 billion bolivares, which is approximately \$700 million. A considerable part of that amount represents salaries. It is true, however, that as a result of the Caldas crisis, both Venezuela and Colombia were forced to start an accelerated process of purchasing military equipment. Unfortunately, we had to incur urgent military expenses that were beyond our economic capacity.

[Gonzalez] How much did the process of acquiring military equipment after the Corvette incident cost Venezuela?

[Ochoa] More than \$1.5 billion, which is an exorbitant amount of money. Colombia also embarked in similar efforts. It is sad to admit it, but the worst part of such a weapons race is that other interests, aside from Venezuela or Colombia, are involved. Those third party interests are those of the weapons smugglers, who are known as "the war dogs." Although we cannot really say that we were encouraged to make those expenses, the truth is that our economies cannot really withstand expenses of that magnitude.

[Gonzalez] Do you think that today our soldiers assimilate our capacity for diplomatic conciliation better?

[Ochoa] Yes. We have come to realize the seriousness of a military confrontation. I went through the difficult experience of commanding the Zulua Division, the strongest one in the Armed Forces, during the Caldas crisis. I was deeply concerned about the high level of tension that easily could have led us to an armed confrontation.

Fortunately, the two governments decided to solve the conflict through dialogue, and those of us in the military command had the necessary maturity and serenity to prevent clashes. We all learned from that experience.

[Gonzalez] According to international authorities, the war against drug trafficking has made the cartels seek refuge in Venezuela and other neighbor countries. What is the real impact of this problem in your country?

[Ochoa] For many years this was not a real problem in Venezuela. The drug from Andean countries was shipped through Panama. Particularly favorable financial conditions there facilitated money laundering. Apparently, the political process that led to General Noriega's ousting changed that situation. It seems that there is a tendency now to use Venezuela as the bridge

country. A large amount of drugs are shipped from Venezuela taking advantage of its territorial waters and extensive borders.

We are fighting the problem, but we need support in the sense that if we do not receive timely information from friendly police corps, it is very difficult for us to control the transit of planes and drug-trafficking networks.

[Gonzalez] Does the fact that Venezuela is a bridge for drug traffickers represent a risk for its economy?

[Ochoa] There is a tendency to use some sources for money laundering. The Venezuelan financial sector is open and there are no major controls. Therefore, the efforts to control this phenomenon is important. So far, the money laundering problem exists at the border areas, where properties have been purchased above their real value. I must stress that Venezuela's security is not in danger because of drug-trafficking activities.

[Gonzalez] Drug trafficking has brought corruption to government spheres....

[Ochoa, interrupting] That is true. We received reports on the influence of drug trafficking in a sector of average political importance in the government structure. There was the case of an official who had been governor of Caracas. However, saying that Venezuela is undergoing a process similar to the one that affected Colombia would be an exaggeration.

[Gonzalez] Has the Armed Forces been affected?

[Ochoa] We have not militarized drug enforcement, except at the border with Colombia. That has happened at the Catatumbo garrison and close to Apure, where we have been forced to create two task forces to fight, not only drug traffic, but also a phenomenon of social violence that has caused us some problems. Problems such as kidnappings, drug trafficking, and violence in general that has been overlooked because of the border situation.

We are not happy with militarizing the problem because crime has a profound capacity for corruption and we do not want to expose military forces to that sort of influence. In accordance with doctrines, it is not advisable to do that.

Besides that, the police corps and the civilian authorities have more capacity for integrating. The Armed Forces have much more difficulties for integrating the processes of the struggle against crime at the border due to their own national significance and the strategic interests they represent. It is very hard to furnish and share military plans.

[Gonzalez] Is the presence of Colombian guerrillas in Venezuela as disturbing as it is occasionally presented?

[Ochoa] There has been some retreat into Venezuelan territory, which can be attributed to pressure from

Colombian authorities, and 27 kidnapping cases of Venezuelan citizens have been reported.

Adviser Comments on Guerrilla Peace Negotiations

PA2310041991 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión
Television Cadena 1 Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] The date for the resumption of the dialogue between the Colombian Government and the rebels in Caracas has still not been determined. There are all sorts of opinions regarding the future of a peace agreement with the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] and the ELN [Army of National Liberation].

The dialogue aimed at ending 30 years of guerrilla warfare started in June and was suspended on 30 September. One week before resuming the dialogue, Presidential Adviser for Peace Jesus Antonio Bejarano clarifies some points and answers some questions.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Will you start from scratch?

[Bejarano] By no means. We will include all the advances we achieved regarding the cease-fire and the aspects connected to the topic of the locations for rebels camps. We hope to elaborate more on those topics.

[Reporter] Will the new stage of negotiations have a deadline?

[Bejarano] To be wise, we have not fixed a deadline, but, of course, its length depends on the atmosphere and the possibilities we may have for important advances.

[Reporter] Will the cease-fire be the first topic?

[Bejarano] The government will insist that is the first topic because we believe the dialogue process must be framed by confidence, credibility, and guarantees. We still need to advance on the topics regarding military confrontation.

[Reporter] Has the government become softer, or has it hardened its positions?

[Bejarano] I believe those are not appropriate terms. The government is clear about its criteria. It understands that it is implementing government policy, that the state has an organization that cannot be committed in a negotiation, that we will not carry out the revolution by contract, and that we need guarantees so that the conversations can be conducted in a firm manner, without interferences. That can be called what you wish, hard, flexible, or soft, but we call it clear. [end recording]

Rebels List Conditions

PA2210234291 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión
Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] As we said earlier today, Manuel Marulanda Velez, a.k.a. Tirofijo, spoke from the mountains of

Colombia. He is the commander of the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC]. He spoke on the following subjects: The 27 October elections; the talks at Caracas; and kidnappings.

The FARC commander said he will not release the 70 military hostages he is holding unless the government does the same with its rebel prisoners. He also mentioned the behavior of the guerrillas concerning the 27 October elections in Colombia.

[Begin Marulanda recording] As long as the government does not guarantee an absence of operations against us, we will not comply with any conditions. If the government stages operations in various parts of the country, then there will be armed confrontations on that day. If there are no operations, then we will not do anything either. [end recording]

In Caracas, the Army of National Liberation [ELN] delegate, Francisco Galan, pointed out that there are three basic points for resuming the dialogue on 30 October.

[Begin Galan recording] In the first place, the dialogue must become stable. Therefore, we believe that we must agree on the following basic criteria: No one can unilaterally leave the negotiating table.

In the second place, any action against the civilian population must be publicly and officially clarified.

In the third place, the cease-fire must be immediate and without any conditions. [end recording]

Paraguay

Iranian Envoy Visits, Seeks Diplomatic Relations

PY2310140091 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish
23 Oct 91 p 13

[Text] Iranian Ambassador to Brazil Ali Na'matollahi is making "an unofficial visit" to our capital. Yesterday he visited the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry.

Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken granted a "diplomatic courtesy" audience to the Iranian envoy, who resides in Brasilia. Following the protocol greetings, the Iranian ambassador conveyed his government's interest in establishing diplomatic ties and in promoting trade between the two countries.

Oscar Cabello Sarubbi, the Foreign Ministry under secretary for general affairs, also attended the meeting. Cabello Sarubbi also held a separate meeting, with the Iranian envoy. He later told the press that "the Iranian ambassador to Brazil is visiting Asuncion and I met with him unofficially because our countries do not have diplomatic relations. [quotation marks as published]

Itaipu Official on Disagreements With Brazil

PY2210180291 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish
22 Oct 91 p 12

[Text] Engineer Salvador Gulino, Paraguay's assistant director of the Itaipu Binational [Hydroelectric Dam] Entity, has denied that the Brazilian Government secretly wants to maintain its predominant position in the entity's leadership structure. Gulino admitted, however, that the directors have disagreed on the composition of the board of directors and that the matter was referred to the two Foreign Ministries.

Itaipu directors met several times to discuss the matter but made no decision on the various alternative proposals to integrate what is now a 12 member council: two general directors (one from Brazil and one from Paraguay—an assistant director) and 10 directors for the various administrative and technical departments. Asked about the Brazilian position and about reports that Brazil seeks to maintain its predominance in the council, Engineer Gulino, who met with President Andres Rodriguez yesterday, said: "I think this is not true, I think there is an awareness that the two countries are equal partners and that we are also capable of occupying any position in a future council."

Asked about the reasons preventing an agreement on a new council, Gulino said: "The board of directors submitted a note to the two Foreign Ministries because it could not reach an agreement. The decision will be made at a higher level, at the Foreign Ministry and governmental level. We have our alternatives for representing our country's best interests."

According to Engineer Gulino, the most viable Paraguayan alternative provides for four directors per country instead of five, as it is now. The proposal eliminates the juridical directorate and creates a legal advisory office.

Venezuela

Perez: Ecuador-Peru Dispute Threatens Unity

PA2310133191 Paris AFP in Spanish 2310 GMT
22 Oct 91

[Text] Caracas 22 Oct (AFP)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez stated 22 October in Caracas that the border dispute between Peru and Ecuador should be resolved bilaterally.

Perez, who was meeting with Andres Vallejos, former Ecuadoran Government minister, pointed out that "these conflicts are the great threat to Latin American integration."

In reference to the armed confrontation that is threatening to break out between the countries because of their territorial differences, the Venezuelan president stated that "the solutions are in bilateral action. Peruvians and Ecuadoreans must get together."

Perez added that "I cannot understand or accept confrontation or adversity between our countries."

Venezuela, as well as Peru and Ecuador, is member of the Andean Pact.

Aristide Backs Embargo; Plans Reshuffle

FL2110192591 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil
Network in Creole 1100 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Report on interview with deposed Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in an unnamed Caracas hotel, date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In an interview from the hotel where he is living in Caracas, former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide said that if one advocates democracy in the world, one must restore the constitutional order in Haiti. If the international community wishes it, democracy will be restored in Haiti through the embargo that the foreign countries have imposed, thereby enabling him to return to Port-au-Prince. This is the statement made by President Aristide, who arrived in Venezuela after a coup by the Haitian military on 30 September.

With an embargo respected by all countries, the Haitian people would again suffer, but they would know that this new ordeal will not last long, Aristide said, explaining that the new authorities would have great difficulty in withstanding the boycott for more than three days.

To facilitate his return to Port-au-Prince, Aristide proposes forming a new ministerial cabinet and—reluctantly—appointing a new prime minister, in consultation with Senate President Dejean Belizaire and Chamber of Deputies President Duly Brutus, as outlined by the Constitution.

Father Aristide's face has gotten thinner. He has lost weight after three weeks in exile, tiring himself out traveling from Caracas to New York for the United Nations meeting, and from New York to Washington to meet with the OAS. He has lost weight, but hopes that with force and faith in God, he can continue the struggle for his people.

In the event of his return to Haiti, Father Aristide suggests that General Cedras and the Army officers who supported the coup d'etat that overthrew him will have to choose between exile and prison.

Police Patrol Streets After Violent Clashes

PA2210221591 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1418 GMT
22 Oct 91

[Text] Caracas, 22 Oct (DPA)—The police are patrolling the main streets of various Venezuelan cities today in the aftermath of violent clashes between students and the security forces, which left one person dead, several injured, and more than 300 arrested on 21 October.

Thousands of students and workers from Los Teques, a suburb of Caracas, blocked the main avenues to protest a new increase in mass transit fares.

The demonstrators were gathered in front of the municipal palace when they were restrained by police and National Guard units.

Disorders were sparked in Caracas after a group of hooded individuals robbed a truck loaded with electrical appliances in the "23 Enero" neighborhood in downtown Caracas.

During the protest, a sniper began shooting from the rooftop of a tall building. A policeman, 25, died in the hospital after being shot in the heart.

The police occupied several of the buildings in the area and confiscated drugs and firearms. Approximately 300 people were arrested during the raid.

Guyana

Carter Center Observer Team Meets Officials

FL2210131291 Bonaire Trans World Radio
in English 1130 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] A five-member observer team from the Carter Center has held discussions with government and elections commission officials, as well as political party leaders. The delegation is led by former Costa Rican President Rodrigo (Carrazo) and is planning to assess the electoral process as the Guyanese get ready for general elections.

Opposition Says Voters' List 'Beyond Salvage'

FL2310022791 Bridgetown CANA in English
2046 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Oct 22, CANA—The Guyana opposition on Tuesday stopped short of a collective, public rejection of a voters list posted for correction before elections due by December 28.

"All of the evidence we have managed to compile and present and collate with the Electoral Assistance Bureau (EAB) points in one direction—that the list is beyond

salvage and the opposition parties are strongly inclining towards collective rejection," Working People's Alliance (WPA) executive Rupert Roopnarine told CANA.

Speculation mounted here of an opposition rejection of the list, said to be substantially flawed, after an emergency meeting Monday of the six-party opposition Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD). Opposition parties have been giving their views on the list to a three-man team from the Atlanta-based Jimmy Carter Centre, here to observe elections preparations, and are finalising reports which analysts said could be disclosed Thursday to coincide with the arrival of more members of the Carter observer team.

The non-governmental Electoral Assistance Bureau was also expected to present its own findings on the list on Thursday. The EAB, a watchdog agency set up with funding from the Washington-based National Democratic Institute (NDI), has challenged the elections commission's claim that the list is no more than 17 per cent inaccurate.

"I believe that it is not going to be much longer before the Guyanese people and the region as a whole can know exactly where the opposition parties stand. What I am prepared to tell you now is that all indications point to a rejection of the list," Roopnarine said.

Roopnarine said that if a new list was required, it was "difficult to see how.... Elections can in fact be held by the constitutionally due date." He repeated opposition party calls for the dismissal of commissioner of national registration and chief election officer, Ronald Jacobs, who supervised production of the list and has since moved to the new elections command centre set up by the elections commission.

"Clearly, what has to be done (for the compilation of a new list) is that Jacobs and his sidekicks at the National Registration Centre (NRC) must depart," Roopnarine said.

After opposition charges that past elections have been rigged by the ruling People's National Congress (PNC), the coming poll promised to be the most open in decades. The government has agreed to a range of electoral reforms, including provision for invitation of international observers.